

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 14-16 are pending. No new matter has been presented.

Applicants thank the Examiner for conducting a telephone interview on November 28, 2007. During the interview, the prior art reference Iwabuchi was discussed in connection with claim 1. No agreement was reached.

Applicants also thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 14-16 are allowed.

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwabuchi, UP 10-044524. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Printer languages (PDLs: Page Description Languages), such as PS (PostScript), PCL (Printer Control Language), and so on, are designed so that data is arranged in the order of printing. That is to say, data in a printer language is arranged to be from the first page to the last page, when the actual printing is to be conducted from the first page to the last page. In such an arrangement, the system cannot detect where an n^{th} page begins in the data of the printer language, unless the system traces the data from the top. Therefore, even one needs to print only the 100th page out of the complete data in the printer language format, the system must trace the data from the top, i.e., the first page, so as to find the start point of the 100th page in the data.

According to the claimed invention, the first image data (which corresponds to the data in a printer language) is partially deleted if the developed and compressed image data of such (the third image data) parts is smaller. For instance, if the third image data of 1st to 99th pages are respectively smaller than the data corresponding to 1st to 99th pages in the first image data, such data in the first image data is deleted. As a result, when one prints the same later or as a second set, the printer uses the third image data for the 1st to 99th pages, and then refers to the first image data to obtain third image data of the 100th page, for example. Since the data corresponding to 1st to 99th pages has already been deleted from the original first image data, the system can reach to the data

corresponding to 100th page in the first image data without having to trace from the first page of the image data to locate the 100th page. This makes reprinting faster.

The Examiner admits that Iwabuchi fails to disclose storing the first (i.e. original) image data and the third image data (i.e. compressed) in a storage unit and discarding the larger of the original data and the compressed data, but asserts that it would have been obvious to do so to optimize memory capacity. Applicants respectfully disagree.

According to Iwabuchi all the pages of the data of the printer language (corresponding to the first image data of the present invention) reside in memory. When a user reprints a document, the printer uses the rasterized image data of the 1st to 99th pages, and then traces the data in the form of the printer language from the top to find the start point of 100th page, which requires the system to interpret unnecessary parts of the document, i.e., the parts which correspond to the 1st to 99th pages. This means that Iwabuchi maintains the so-called first image data because it refers back to this data when reprinting, as described above. If it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified Iwabuchi to delete the larger of the original data and the compressed data as asserted by the Examiner, Iwabuchi would have done so. Iwabuchi does not teach or suggest deleting this data because it is used again.

Further, the fact that the claimed invention discards the image data of the larger of the first image data and the third image data is the reason why it is possible to reprint subsequent copies without having to retrace from the beginning of the document. There is simply no suggestion which would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Iwabuchi to achieve this advantage without the use of impermissible hindsight.

Accordingly, Iwabuchi fails to teach or suggest the features of claim 1.

Claim 3 is allowable for the same reason claim 1 is allowable. The remaining claims are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies. Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwabuchi as applied to claim 3 above, and further in view of Applicant's Background Prior Art. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 7 is allowable at least due to its dependency from claim 1 and further in view of the failure of applicants' background prior art to overcome the deficiencies of Iwabuchi. Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Deborah S. Gladstein
Registration No.: 43,636
MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP
1650 Tysons Blvd, Suite 400
McLean, Virginia 22102
(703) 760-7753